THE SAMMELBAND FLYLEAF

Nº 8 - February 2026

ROME COLLOQUIUM

The next Sammelband 15-16 event will be organised in Rome at the *Koninklijk Nederlands Instituut in Rome* (KNIR) from 28 to 30 April - with a team meeeting scheduled for the morning of 1 May. The conference will focus around the theme of 'Material Memory. Sammelbände and the Preservation of Popular Print in and from Italian Contexts (c. 1470-1650)'. The event will also involve heritage visits and practical workshops in four different archives and libraries.

The papers will be given in the KNIR, an institution founded in 1904 to promote exchange and debate between the Dutch and Italian academic communities as well as the wider international academic world, which is funding the event.

KNIR
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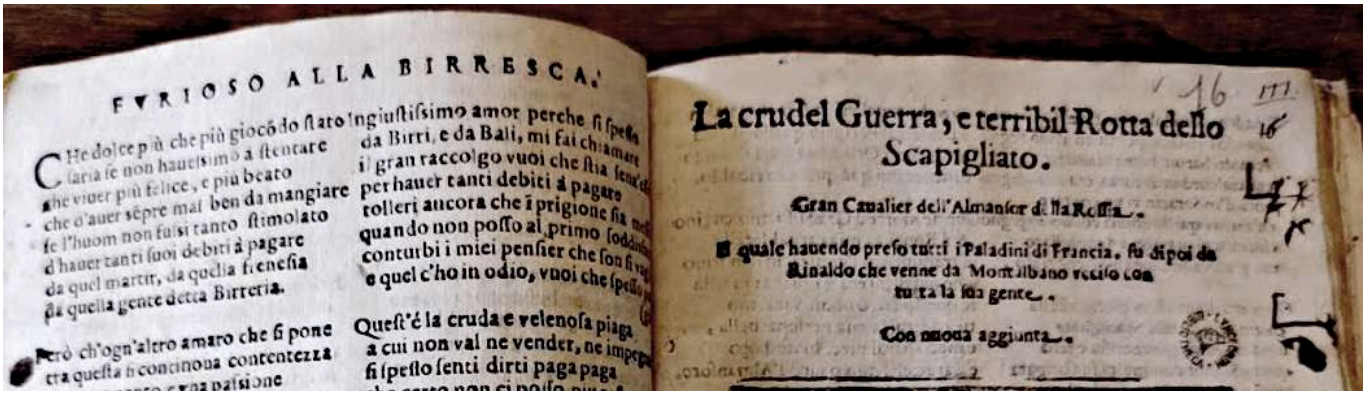
See p. 8 for the progamme



ERC GRANT PROPOSAL

A proposal was submitted to the European Research Council as part of their annual call for advanced grants in August 2025. The plan involved work by postdoctoral researchers in Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden and France. The work was to be coordinated in Enssib in cooperation with at least two project members in each of these locations to ensure both local knowledge and guidance as well as strategic coherence. The proposal failed to convince the initial evaluation team and did not go forward for analysis by experts in the field. Following their feedback, a revised version will be submitted as part of the 2027 call.

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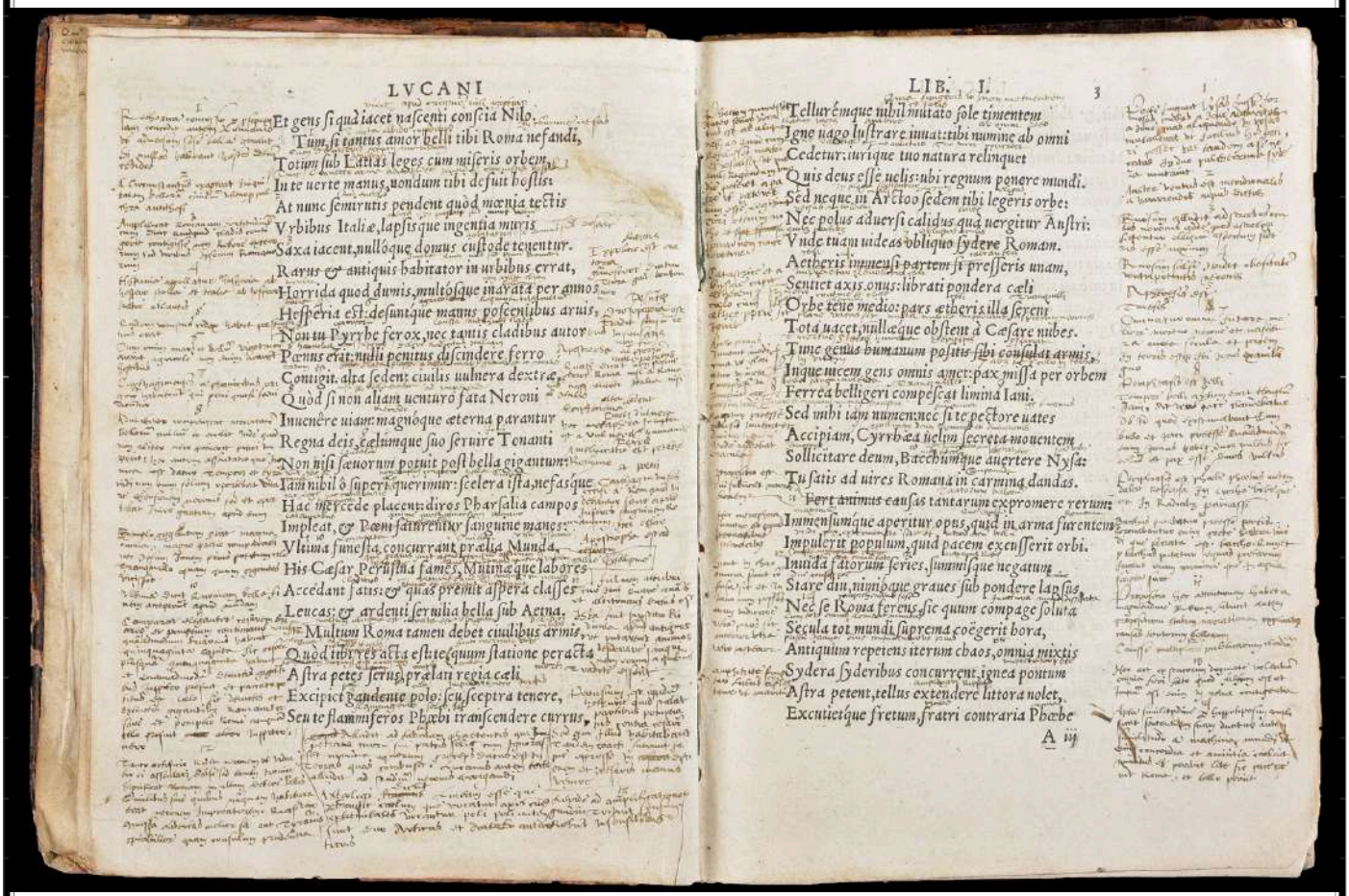
REPORT ON THE NICOSIA CONFERENCE

The thirteenth conference of the Sammelband 15-16 network was organised by Natasha Constantidinou and Malcolm Walsby in Nicosia on 19-21 November 2025. It focused on Sammelbände used in an instructional manner. These could involve very varied types of editions. Perhaps the most expected form was the compilation of different educational works within the same binding. With the event being held in Nicosia, schoolbooks and textbooks in a Greek context were naturally the focus of a specific session. Recent work done as part of the GrECI project (Greek Heritage in European Culture and Identity) at the University if Cyprus, has laid the ground for a much better understanding of the dissemination of Greek culture and its language though the dissemination of Greek books throughout the continent.

In this first session, Olga Gkiouleka (University of Cyprus), presented case studies of Sammelbände containing Greek alphabets and grammars produced and used in sixteenth and early seventeenth-century Spain, now kept at the CRAI library of Barcelona. Flavia Bruni (ICCU, Rome) analysed volumes from the Oratorian Library of the Vallicella in

Natasha Constantinidou welcomes participants at the start of the first day of proceedings on the University of Cyprus's historic campus in Nicosia


LVCANI

Et gens siquâ iacet nascenti conscia Nilo,
Tum si tantus amor belli tibi Roma nefandi,
Totum sub Latias leges cum miseris orbem,
In te uerte manus, nondum tibi defuit hostis:
At nunc semirutis pendent quòd mœnia tectis
Vrbibus Italiæ, lapsisque ingentia muris
Saxa iacent, nullóque domus custode tenentur.
Rarus & antiquis habitator in urbibus errat,
Horrida quod dumis, multósque inarata per annos
Hesperia est: desuntque manus posceentibus armis,
Non tu Pyrrhe ferox, nec tantis cladibus autor
Pœnus erat: nulli penitus discindere ferro
Contigit alta sedem: ciuilis uulnera dextræ
Quòd si non aliam uenturo fata Neroni
Inuenêre uiam: magnóque æterna parantur
Regna deis, cælumque suo seruire Tonanti
Non nisi seuorum potuit post bella gigantum:
Tam nihil ô superi quærimur: scelera ista, nefasque
Hac merecde placent: diros Pharsalia campos
Impleat, & Pœnis saturentur sanguine manes:
Vltima funesta concurrant prælia Munda,
His Cæsar Perusina fames, Mutinæque labores
Accedant fatis: & quas premit aspera classes
Leucas: & ardenti seruilia bella sub Aetna.
Multum Roma tamen debet ciuilibus armis,
Quòd tibi res alta est, quicquid statione peracta
Astra petes serus, prælato regia cæli
Excipiet gaudente polo: seu sceptra tenere,
Seu te flammiferos Phœbi transcendere currus,

LIB. I. 3

Tellurémque nihil mutato sole timentem
Igne uago lustrare iuuat: tibi numine ab omni
Cedetur: iurique tuo natura relinquet
Quis deus esse uelis: ubi regnum ponere mundi.
Sed neque in Arctoo sedem tibi legeris orbe:
Nec polus aduersi calidus quâ uergitur Austri:
Vnde tuam uideas obliquo sydere Romam.
Aetheris immensi partem si presseris unam,
Sentiet axis onus: librati pondera cæli
Orbe tenè medio: pars ætheris illa sereni
Tota uacet, nullæque obstent à Cæsare nubes.
Time genus humanum positis sibi consulat armis,
Inque uicem gens omnis amet: pax missa per orbem
Ferrea belligeri compescat limina Iani.
Sed mihi tam numen: nec sit te pectore uates
Accipiam, Cyrrhæa uelim secreta mouentem
Sollicitare deum, Bacchúmque auertere Nysa:
Tu satis ad uires Romana in carmina dandas.
Fert animus causas tantarum expromere rerum:
Immensumque aperitur opus, quis in arma furentem
Impulerit populum, quid pacem exensserit orbi.
Inuida fatorum series, summisque negatum
Stare diu, nimioque graues sub pondere lapsus,
Nec se Roma ferens, sic quum compage soluta
Secula tot mundi suprema coëgerit hora,
Antiquum reperens iterum chaos, omnia mixtis
Sydera syderibus concurrent, ignea pontum
Astra petent, tellus extendere littora nolet,
Excutietque freta, fratri contraria Phœbe

A iij

Pages of a heavily annotated educational Sammelband of mid-sexteenth-century Parisian imprints in their distinctive in-quarto format

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Rome, in which Sammelbände for Greek and Hebrew learning mainly come from the individual libraries of scholars and humanists. The variety of cases and the wealth of information they contain suggest that much is to be gained from studying them in much greater detail.

Natasha Constantidinou (University of Cyprus) proposed a typology of Sammelbände with such educational Sammelbände in Greek, not only with regard to thematic categories but also according to the types of bindings in which they were encased a,d the use they suggested. She also emphasised the importance of determining when and where these Sammelbände could have been made and used. Looking more specifically at the production of such educational items, Malcolm Walsby (ENSSIB) reflected on the use in sixteenth-century France of a specific type of paper size that allowed to maximise the size of margins for note-taking by students, as well as showing cases of Sammelbände repeatedly read and marked by communities of students who made good use of these margins to develop whole systems of annotations.

Beyond such cases of educational books, manuals for various arts and crafts were the topic of a series of papers. Medical and scientific books were the subjet of three presentations. The first by Justine Andrieux (ENSSIB), compared two Lyon Sammelbände containing the same treatise by French medical doctor Jacques Dubois (1478-1555) but which had been used in a very different ways by their successive owners. Two further papers delved into Sammelbände that were part of foundational collections of the Marciana library in Venice: Claudia Benvestito (Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Venezia) studied how the works by philosopher and physician Simone Porzio's (1496-1554) were combined in Sammelbände in several individual collections, while Alessia Giachery (Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Venezia) studied the thematic and material specificities of the Sammelbände in the book collection of Tommaso Giannotti Rangoni (1493-1577), a physician and astrologer.

Claudia Benvestito analyses a Sammelband of works by Simone Porzio owned by Apostolo Zeno preserved in the Marciana library

How-to-books also offered different avenues of research. James Fox (University of Glasgow), showed the long life of a volume originally containing sixteenth-century English medical books, before becoming a repository of various documents for a family whose members used this volume up until the eighteenth century. Volumes that contained an

early modern book offering colour recipes for artists, analysed by Benedicte Miyamoto (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris), posed questions about the actual use of such books not only to read but also to experiment with recipes 'book-in-hand', given the numerous stains it presented.

Religious and moral motives were at the heart of other papers. Anna Katharina Richter (University of Zürich), considered the function of a German Sammelband containing two titles that could be read as instructions for understanding the invisible through the interpretation of dreams. Christine Chevalier-Boyer (ENSSIB) studied *exempla* collections created before 1500 that could be used to help prepare sermons, concentrating in particular on the case of a thirteenth-century text that received a second life both in manuscript and printed form in Sammelbände of the incunabula era. Katell Lavéant (Allard Pierson, University of Amsterdam) presented the complex materiality of backless bindings containing collections of Protestant *artes vivendi et moriendi* in Dutch. Through their analysis, she demonstrated how the use of special bindings could reveal the manner in which contemporaries practiced their personal piety in the sixteenth-century Low Countries.

Finally, Laurent Guillo (Centre d'Etudes Supérieures de la Renaissance, Tours) presented the curious case of one of the earliest French music treatises, that was bound not with other treatises, as one would expect, but with pamphlets in which the author defended his work against the criticism published by a rival musician, thus allowing these unique copies of pamphlets to survive.

Laurent Guillo presents the extraordinary survival of musical pamphlets a sixteenth-century Sammelband now in the municipal library of Grenoble

As is now habitual practice during the Sammelband 15-16 conferences, part of the programme consisted of a hands-on sessions and of visits to heritage collections and sites. The Nicosia event allowed participants to discover three very different libraries, all of them of great interest, not least as they are yet to be fully investigated by scholars. The first of these was the rare books section of the library of the University of Cyprus. Since its foundation in 1989, the University had received a number of heritage books thanks, mainly, to a series of donations. However, with regard to sixteenth-century editions, by far the most important donation was that of the collection of Georgios and Markisia Lagana in 2021. It was with the books from this recent addition to the library that the participants worked during two sessions. This was of particular interest as, though the editions centred on Greek texts, the bindings and imprints presented cases from all over Europe.

Members of the project examining sixteenth-century Sammelbände in the University of Cyprus Library

On 21 November, the participants were also able visit two more rare book collections. The first is kept at the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation, that includes items ranging from the sixteenth to the twentieth century with a special focus on editions on the War of Cyprus (1571), as well as travel maps and travel logs. The second is housed at the Archbishop Makarios III Cultural Foundation (Archbishopric of Cyprus), where members examined a selction of sixteenth-century volumes donated to Orthodox Cypriot churches, which conatined numerous traces of uses by their early modern and modern readers. The event ended with a guided tour of the recently renovated Byzantine Museum.

AND
ART GALLERY

ROME COLLOQUIUM
28-30 April 2026

Material Memory
Sammelbände and the Preservation of Popular Print in and from Italian Contexts (c. 1470-1650)

Tuesday 28 April

14.00-16.00 - Visit of the *Archivio di Stato di Roma* by Flavia Bruni, *Central Institute for the Union Catalogue of Italian libraries*

17.00 - Public keynote lecture by Neil Harris, *Università degli Studi di Udine*
'The Logic of the Sammelband, the Illogic of the Sammelband'
Respondent: Malcolm Walsby, *Enssib*

Wednesday 29 April

8.30 - Tea and coffee at the KNIR
9.00 - Opening remarks by Rozanne Versendaal, *Utrecht University*

9.15-9.45 - Session 1. Chaired by Jeroen Salman, *Utrecht University*
Katell Lavéant, *Allard Pierson, University of Amsterdam*, 'Sammelbände and Popular Print: What the Sammelband 15-16 Project Taught Us'

9.45-11.15 - Session 2: Ephemeral Print in Sammelbände in and from Italian Contexts (1). Chaired by Natasha Constantinidou, *University of Cyprus*

Ester Camilla Peric, *Sapienza Università di Roma*, 'Ephemeral Prints, Enduring Sammelbände: Prognostications in the early modern period'
Nina Lamal, *Humanities Cluster of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences*, 'Sammelbände and the afterlife of seventeenth-century Italian newspapers'
Rozanne Versendaal, *Utrecht University*, 'Festive Culture, Popular Print and Sammelbände in Sixteenth-Century Italy'

12.15-13.00 - Lunch at the Vatican Library

13.00-17.30 - Workshop with Sammelbände from the Vatican Library
Prepared by the Vatican Library staff, Neil Harris and Ester Camilla Peric

Thursday 30 April

9.30-10.45 - Session 3: Ephemeral Print in Sammelbände in and from Italian Contexts (2). Chaired by Flavia Bruni, *ICCU*

Jorge Fragua Valdivieso, *University of Design, Innovation and Technology, Madrid, 'Bulls,* Breves, Signatures and Secretaries: Tracing the Administrators of the Liturgy through the Sammelband Papi, 1566–1572'

Luciano Scarpaci, *Conservatorio di musica di Bologna/Universitá degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia*, 'Towards an Editio Princeps? The newly identified Castroreale edition of Rosario odore della vita'

Abigail Brundin, *British School at Rome*, 'Poetry on the convent threshold in early modern Italy'

11.45-12.45 - Session 4. Chaired by Katell Lavéant, *Allard Pierson, Amsterdam*

Anna Katharina Richter, *Universität Zürich*, 'Narrating the world. A late medieval best-seller in a Swedish war-booty Sammelband'

Shanti Graheli, *University of Glasgow*, 'Survivors: Italian popular print abroad'

Raphaële Mouren, *British School at Rome*, 'What is there to know about the papal Court? Variations around the *Relazioni della Corte di Roma*'

12.45-13.30 - Lunch

13.30-15.30 - Workshop with Sammelbände from the KNIR Special Collections led by Diana Giofrè, *KNIR*

15.45-16.15 - Coffee break at the *British School at Rome*

16.15-17-30 - Presentation of books from the Special Collections of the British School at Rome by Raphaële Mouren.

Friday 1 May

9.30-11.30 - Informal group meeting at the KNIR

Event organised by Rozanne Versendaal, *Utrecht University*

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INTRODUCING PROJECT MEMBERS

ALESSIA GIACHERY

My name is Alessia Giachery, and since 2022 I have been Head of the Manuscript and Rare Books Department at the *Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana* in Venice.

After graduating in Codicology, I obtained a postgraduate specialisation in Bibliology. For several years I have worked in various Venetian libraries on projects focused on cataloguing or on conducting a census of manuscripts and rare books. These assignments have allowed me to deepen my knowledge of the rare book collections of several institutions in the lagoon city. I have been working at the *Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana* since 2012.

My research interests concern two main fields. The first relates to the history of Venetian typography in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, with particular reference to the activity of individual typographers, publishers, and engravers, reconstructed mainly on the basis of archival documentation that has survived to the present day. The second concerns the history of the *Marciana* Library, founded thanks to a major donation made in 1468 consisting mainly of Greek manuscripts, and the growth of its collections, largely due to several bequests received between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries. Furthermore, at the beginning of the nineteenth century, a huge amount of manuscripts and books was assigned to the Library as a consequence of the transfer of monastic collections, following the suppression of religious corporations in the Napoleonic era.

As regards the second line of research, the ancient inventories and catalogues - almost

entirely manuscript - of the Marciana Library and, when extant, of the individual collections, have proved to be of particular interest to my research. The study of these inventories and catalogues, combined with the identification of marks of ownership in the volumes, whether printed (ex libris) or manuscript (notes of possession), constitutes the possible method for the reconstruction of the individual collections, as books and manuscripts, when received, were not incorporated into the Marciana holdings as unitary collections. These inventories also allow me to begin to understand both the changing locations of books within the Library over the centuries, and a series of recurring phenomena: the elimination of duplicates, the assembly and dismemberment of Sammelbände, and binding campaigns often resulting in the loss of much of the information originally contained in the volumes.

Participation in the Sammelband 15–16 study group has allowed me to broaden my view of the collections of other important European institutions and to better understand the circulation of books in Europe. I believe that my contribution to the network lies in studying the various cores that make up the historical holdings of the Marciana Library, to be related to the scholarly and collecting activities carried out by the previous owners, often illustrious men of science and letters from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries.

Alessia Giachery can be contacted via the e-mail address: alessia.giachery@cultura.gov.it.

Hvj

SAMMELBAND 15-16
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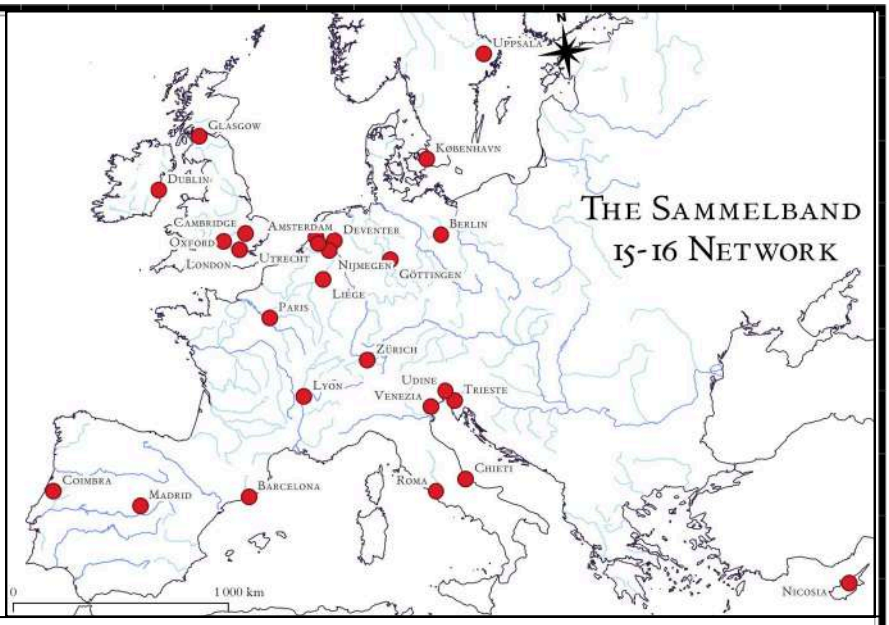
https://sammelband.hypotheses.org
Twitter: @sammelband15_16
Email: sammelband15.16@gmail.com

Sammelband 15-16 is a project that studies the creation and use of Sammelbände in fifteenth- and sixteenth-century Europe



THE SAMMELBAND 15-16 GROUP ARE...

Renaud Adam
Bibliothèque universitaire de Liège, Belgium

Alex Alsemgeest
Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Justine Andrieux
Centre Gabriel Naudé, Enssib, Lyon, France

Christine Bénévent
Ecole nationale des chartes, Paris, France

Claudia Benvestito
Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Venice, Italy

Helwi Blom
Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands

Pauline Bobichon
Utrecht University, Netherlands

Mathilde Bombart
Université Lumière Lyon 2, France

Amandine Bonesso
Università degli studi di Trieste, Italy

Flavia Bruni
Università degli Studi 'Gabriele d'Annunzio', Chieti, Italy

Sergio Cappello
University of Udine, Italy

Hélène Cazes
University of Victoria, Canada

Christine Chevalier-Boyer
Centre Gabriel Naudé, Enssib, Lyon, France

Sarah Chisholm
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands

Natasha Constantinidou
University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus

Falk Eisermann
Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Germany

Iain Fenlon
King's College Cambridge, England

Suzan Folkerts
Athenaeumbibliotheek, Deventer, Netherlands

Jorge Fragua Valdivieso
UDIT, Madrid, Spain

Alessia Giachery
Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Venice, Italy

Rosa M. Gomes
University of Coimbra, Portugal

Shanti Graheli
University of Glasgow, Scotland

Ann-Marie Hansen
Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

Neil Harris
University of Udine, Italy

Renske Hoff
Utrecht University, Netherlands

Monique Hulvey
Centre Gabriel Naudé, Lyon, France

Bart Jaski
Utrecht University Library, Netherlands

Katell Lavéant
Allard Pierson, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Andrea van Leerdam
Utrecht University Library, Netherlands

Maud Lejeune
Centre Gabriel Naudé, ENS Lyon, France

Saskia Limbach
Universität Göttingen, Germany

Jason McElligott
Marsh's Library, Dublin, Ireland

Matilde Malaspina
University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Sabrina Minuzzi
University of Udine, Italy

Lucie Moruzzis
Archives Nationales, Paris, France

Ester Camilla Peric
Sapienza Università di Roma, Italy

Nicholas Pickwoad
University of the Arts, London, England

Anna Katharina Richter
University of Zurich, Switzerland

Pedro Rueda Ramírez
Universitat de Barcelona, Spain

Matthew Shaw
Queen's College Library, Oxford, England

Peter Sjökvist
Uppsala University Library, Sweden

Rozanne Versendaal
Utrecht University, Netherlands

Malcolm Walsby
Centre Gabriel Naudé, Enssib, Lyon, France